



What It Means to Be God's Child

Lesson 5 (1 John 2:28-3:10)

There are people in the family of God, and people in the family of Satan. Both groups live in a way that you can guess which family they belong to.

I. Being a child of God brings both responsibility and blessing (2:28-3:3).

As we think about being God's child, this brings both responsibility and privilege. It is a high calling.

A. Being a child of God brings great responsibilities.

These responsibilities do not **make** us children of God, but rather are there because we **are** children of God.

1. **The responsibility to _____ (2:28).**
Our first and most important task is to abide in him, because "without [Christ] ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).
2. **The responsibility of living _____ (2:29).**
Children act like their parents (Eph. 5:1)! We have **positional** righteousness because God sees us based on Christ, and we pursue **practical** righteousness to live like Jesus every day.
3. **The responsibility to _____ oneself (3:3)**
As we wait for Jesus the pure to return, it should motivate us to live pure lives now.

B. Being a child of God brings great blessings.

Because of our status as God's children, and at times because we are fulfilling our responsibilities, we have tremendous blessings.

1. **The blessing of _____ at his coming (2:28).**
Christ told several parables with this theme (Matthew 24:44-25:30), and Paul similarly encouraged his churches to be ready (1 Thessalonians 5:1-8).



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2. **The blessing of the privilege of being God's child (3:1-2).**
By being God's children, we are against the world. One day we will see Jesus and we will fully and finally be made like him.
3. **The blessing of the _____ in Christ's return (3:2-3).**
This hope of glorification should encourage us to strive today to look more like Jesus as we await his return.

II. Being a child of God means taking sin seriously (3:4-6).

- A. **We shouldn't sin because sin is _____ (3:4).**
Those who sin repeatedly and unrepentedly demonstrate they care little for the instructions of their Father.
- B. **We shouldn't sin because Christ came to deal with sin (3:5).**
Those who treat sin casually demonstrate a poor understanding of who Christ is and what matters to him.
- C. **We shouldn't sin because sin is _____ for those who truly know God (3:6).**
Once we are saved and are abiding in Christ, sin will not dominate. If it does, we should be concerned for ourselves or those we love.

III. Being a child of God puts us in opposition to the devil (3:7-10).

- A. **The children of the _____ sin like their father (cf John 8:41-44).**
Those who make sin a regular practice of their life are showing they are truly the children of the devil, whatever they might say.
- B. **The children of _____ do not sin.**
Those born of God do not practice sin and they do practice righteousness.

John is uncomfortably blunt. While none of us will be perfect, all of us should be fighting sin and totally uncomfortable with a lifestyle that rejects God's Word or harbors hatred toward other Christians. If that is not the case, we might just be revealing who our real father is.

Next Week: We Ought to Love One Another (1 John 3:11-24)

How do we know that we are believers according to these verses?

What is the connection between Cain, Satan, and the world?

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